

SLAIN RECTOR'S WIFE MAKES STATEMENT AFTER A QUIZ

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found out nothing from her that they did not know before.

However, at the conclusion of the questioning, in which the Prosecutors of Middlesex, Stuyvesant and Somerset counties, Messrs. Stickler and Beckman, and the Assistant Prosecutor of Middlesex, John E. Toole, took part, the somewhat cryptic remark was made by Toole that no one has been eliminated from this case.

Mrs. Hall went back to her home, accompanied by two detectives, but they returned at once to the court house.

Stambles Leaving Court House.

She stumbled as she came from the Court House after the quiz this afternoon and was virtually lifted into a taxicab. Fifteen minutes after Mrs. Hall left the Court House George Toole, counsel from the who has been on the ins and outs of the case, was seen by the press.

As the result of two days of effort and it is understood, against the advice of former State Senator Florence, who is the counsel for the Hall family, a statement coming from Mrs. Hall was issued later, just an hour or so after the questioning at the Court House.

It is signed by Mrs. Hall herself. In fact, twenty copies had been prepared for the newspapers under the direction of Miss Peters and every one was signed.

Statement by Mrs. Hall.

This is the statement as given out at the Hall home by Miss Peters, and it is the first word to come direct from Mrs. Hall since the bodies were found:

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 13, 1922.
For the last three years Mr. Hall and I have taken Mrs. Eleanor Mills and Mrs. Addison Clarke on picnics in appreciation of all the work they have done for the church. This year we went to Lake Hopatcong, the picnic comprising Mr. Hall and myself, Mr. Hall's mother, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Clarke. We reached home about 9 o'clock in the evening.

THURSDAY, Sept. 14, 1922.
In the morning I took out the Dodge car. In the afternoon Mr. Hall took the Dodge car and went to make an address before the Parent Teachers' Association at the school at Berdine Corners, leaving home in time to arrive there at 3:30. He came back between 4 and 4:30, gathered flowers to take to a sick parishioner at St. Peter's Hospital, and in company with his little niece went out again, returning shortly after 6. He had family supper with me, my brother William and our little niece.

Mr. Hall was preparing to go out about 7 when the telephone rang. He answered the extension upstairs, as he happened to be there. I did not overhear the conversation.

Hall Leaves House.

Mr. Hall went out about 7:30, telling me that he was going to the Mills' to explain something that Mr. Mills did not quite understand in the doctor's bill.

Mr. Hall was always early in coming home. Naturally I was very much worried when he did not come in. About 2:30 my anxiety became so great that I roused my brother William and we went down to the church, thinking it possible that Mr. Hall had stopped there for business, as he frequently did, and had fallen asleep in his study. The church was locked and dark. I then went around by the Mills' house, thinking someone might have been taken ill and that my husband had remained to give assistance, as he had stated that he was going there about the bill.

The house was dark and I came directly home with my brother William.

She Telephones to Police.

Friday, September 15, 1922.
About 7 A. M. I telephoned the police to learn if any accident had been reported. They had nothing to report.

I took the Dodge car and started downtown, thinking I might hear some news. In front of the church I saw Mr. Mills. I stopped and asked him if Mr. Hall had been to his house on the preceding evening.

Mr. Mills said he had not seen him, and so far as he knew Mr. Hall had not been there. He added that his wife had also been missing. I then came home and telephoned to Mr. Hall's sisters. I met them at the train around noon. I consulted with my sister-in-law and telephoned Mr. Florence (Mrs. Hall's lawyer), who said the authorities ought to know, and that he himself would go to the police. The rest of the day I remained at home.

First Hears of Murder.

Saturday, September 16, 1922.
I telephoned a member of my family living next door, who came over at once. I telephoned to Mr. Florence to ask for news.

About the middle of the morning a Home News reporter telephoned me asking if Mr. Hall were at home, and being told not requested his address and the date of his return. I asked him why they requested this, and he said they feared something had happened to Mr. Hall. I shut off the telephone and called Mr. Florence, repeating the conversation to him.

About 1:30 a member of the family came to my home to break the news to me, telling me that my fear of an accident was verified. He informed me that Mr. Hall had been shot.

he did not go to the Hall home until 4 o'clock on that day and that it was after that when he went to the police. The Senator let it be understood. It was after he had been to the Hall home and not after he got the telephone message that he went to the police.

Reference to Private Enemies.

At the conclusion of her statement Mrs. Hall refers to "private enemies." To-night an effort was made to get a clarification of that statement and an explanation of the qualification. A member of the family, Lieut. Commander Arthur Carpenter, expressed the belief that the use of the word "private" was unfortunate and that the qualification meant nothing.

The one thing the statement really accomplished was to indicate that Mrs. Hall was not in any fear of putting herself on record. It appeared later too, that the secrecy maintained is the result of legal advice and that members of the family have agreed the policy so far pursued has been a bad one. The statement, in fact, was issued only after Senator Florence had protested and been overruled.

The element of time that has been puzzling all who have been investigating the murder assumed decided importance to-day. It had been established that Hall left his home between 7:30 and 8 o'clock on the night of Thursday, September 14. It had been established that Mrs. Mills left home perhaps a few minutes earlier and that she was seen, as the motorman, Coyne has said, at 8:20 on the car going out Easton avenue. There then was a lapse of several hours and the sound of screaming and the shots, fixed as between 11:30 and midnight. What had

occurred in the interim has been one of the puzzles of a complicated case. Now there appear persons whose stories would indicate that the killing took place in the neighborhood of 8 o'clock and whose versions of what they saw and heard apparently contradict the statements already on the record. This raises the question whether some of the people of New Brunswick have not had their imaginations aroused beyond the usual point by reading of the murder.

Heard Shots at 8:16.

There is a Mrs. Hoag, who lives perhaps at close as any one to the spot at which the bodies were found. She has told a score of people she heard shots at 8:16. Her place is to the west of De Russy lane, about 100 yards from Easton avenue.

Right opposite the gate through which access is obtained to the Hoag place across Easton avenue, which is the main road to Bound Brook, the Tingles live. They say they heard the shots that are supposed to have ended the lives of Hall and Mrs. Mills just after they went up stairs and that they retired at 10 o'clock. Three contradictory stories as to the time of the actual shooting are therefore on the record.

To-night Mrs. Lee Harkins of 308 Richardson avenue asserted that she saw both Hall and Mrs. Mills on the evening of the murder. She felt sure of her story and explained her silence up to the present by her reluctance to get into the limelight. Her assertion is that she saw the pair, beyond the end of the Easton avenue trolley line, at 8 o'clock and she thinks the two were murdered just after that time. She says she was out for a short walk with a Mrs. Bliss and heard shots behind her. Turning she saw Mrs. Mills, whom she knew.

"She appeared in a dreadful hurry. Clutched under her right arm was a bundle. She stepped to one side of the road and I was pushing, smiling and hurried on, leaving us behind. As we drew near the end of the car line a man approached us. As he came nearer I saw it was Mr. Hall. He did not recognize me. He appeared to be worried. He kept looking around as though some one might be following him. After he passed us he continued to look around. That was the last I saw of him."

This is the substance of the Harkins

story. It does not gibe with Mrs. Hall's statement that Hall did not leave home until 7:30. It would have been all Hall could do to get to the point Mrs. Harkins speaks of in the time, had he hurried and been extremely fortunate in catching a street car. There is the additional fact that no motorman or conductor remembers seeing him, nor did any one of the many hundreds who know him see him after he left his home that night. The Hall home is far across the other side of town from the place at which Mrs. Harkins says she saw the rector.

It appears that there had been gossip as to the friendship between Hall and Mrs. Mills and that the church authorities had heard it, though up to the present they had not indicated such a thing.

Ralph V. M. Goraline, a member of the vestry, admitted to-day that a year ago there had been talk and that one of the vestrymen had gone to Hall and told him of the gossip, at the same time assuring him that no one believed the tales or took stock in the unpleasant suggestions. Goraline said that as far as he knew no one had carried tales to Mrs. Hall.

Harold R. Flick, a member of the choir, also had known of the gossip, but he did not believe there was any foundation for it. He said Hall was always a "good fellow" and liked to mingle with the younger crowd in the church. He was, said Flick, more tentative to Mrs. Mills than to the other members of the choir.

Always at Choir Practice.

Mrs. Irving T. Jordan, leader of the choir, recalled that Hall nearly always attended choir practice, and that he stayed to the end and even afterward, Mrs. Mills staying too. Mrs. Jordan says there was hardly a time that she left choir practice that she did not leave Hall and Mrs. Mills behind her.

Evidently the choir was not what might be termed harmonious.

There was a woman who had the reputation of being jealous of Mrs. Mills' voice and of admiring the rector. According to Mrs. Jordan, this woman usually took sides against Mrs. Mills when there was an argument or any unpleasantness in the choir. However, Mrs. Jordan is of the belief that both Mrs. Mills and the woman referred to were sincere church workers.

Miss Jessie Jamieson, who works in a department store, said to-day that Hall called on her at 8 o'clock on the Thursday of the murder and brought her some flowers. She was ill, she said, and in this point Mrs. Hall is in agreement with her to an extent, admitting that Hall was taking flowers to the sick. The assumption is that Hall stopped to see Miss Jamieson on his way to make the speech to which Mrs. Hall refers in her statement.

Miss Jamieson says also that she had noticed the growing friendship between Hall and Mrs. Mills, but denied with emphasis that she had ever told Mills he should watch his wife. She says she knew and liked both the Halls, but did not know Mrs. Mills well.

On the other hand, it appears that right in the Hall house is a close friend of Mrs. Mills in the Scotch woman, Barbara Tough, a seamstress, who has been a member of the Hall household for six and a half years.

She said to-day that she, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Minna Clarke were the closest of friends for years. She is surprised the authorities have not questioned her. She knows Miss Jamieson, too, and said:

"Oh, Miss Jamieson loved Mr. Hall—that is, of course, just as her rector. The seamstress made it clear she did not think there was any love lost between Miss Jamieson and Mrs. Mills. As to the Halls, she said they always appeared, as she put it, "like turtle doves" and "the most loving couple" she had ever seen. She recalled something of the night of the murder, having heard a sound about two o'clock which she then thought was the closing of the windows by the rector, but now

believed was Mrs. Hall awakening Willie Stevens. She also heard some sounds about four o'clock which she supposed were made by Mrs. Hall returning from her fruitless search in the church for her husband.

Mills, who for the last day or so has been going about his work as janitor of the Lord Storer School in much the usual fashion despite the tragedy, was visited this morning by detectives. They remained for some time and later when an effort was made to locate Mills he could not be found. It is not clear, however, that the detectives devoted much time to further questioning of the sexton and it is believed they were more concerned with the various stories being told by Charlotte, the sixteen year old daughter.

Charlotte repudiated almost in its entirety the statement she made yesterday and at one time said she had seen no reporters.

TWO, THROWN FROM FIRE TRUCK, INJURED

Machine Clips Small Tree in Turning Corner.

The extension ladder on Hook and Ladder Truck No. 33 clipped a small tree while rounding Burnside and University avenues, The Bronx, last night and Lieut. George Taylor, commanding, and Fireman Lewis J. Farrell, at the tiller wheel, were flipped across the street. Taylor, who is 41 years old and lives at 112 East 236th street, was painfully but not seriously bruised. Farrell, who lives at 3407 Valentine avenue, had his skull fractured. His condition is serious, but he is expected to recover. Both men are in the Fordham Hospital. The truck was on its way to a small blaze in a paint shed in Burnside avenue. No explanation for the failure of the truck to make the turn successfully could be found.



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